disposal per year out of pending cases and the percentage increase of pendency year-wise is given below:—

Year	Pendency at the beginning of the year	Institution	Disposal	Pendency at the end of the year	%age increase in pendency
2001	14838	22885	23258	14465	—
2002	14465	22764	18635	18594	28.54
2003	18594	24807	21687	21714	16.77
2004	21714	33452	19354	35812	64.92
2005	35812	24392	16334	43870	22.50
2006 (1st qtr.)	43870	6427	5902	44395	—

Appointment of retired judges

†3084. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that retired Chief Justice of India Hon'ble Shri J.S. Verma (Supreme Court), and former Attorney General Shri Soli Sorabjee have offered to provide their services as *adhoc* judges to ease the ever-increasing burden of cases;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) the names of other retired High Court and Supreme Court Judges who have submitted similar proposals; and

(d) the details of action being taken by Government with regard to the ever increasing burden of cases and decreasing number of judges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Supreme Court have informed that they have no information in regard to the offer made by the retired Chief Justice of India, Shri Justice J.S. Verma and former Attorney General, Shri Soli Sorabjee offering their services as *adhoc* judges.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal has been received by the Government from any of the retired Judges of the High Courts.

(d) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases which include setting up of fast track courts, amendment to the Civil Procedure Codes, permanent adalats for disputes relating to public utilities, increase in the number of posts of Judges, establishment of special courts/tribunals, improvement in the standard of legal education,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

adoption of alternative modes of disputes resolution, such as arbitration and conciliation.

The Government has also requested the Chief Justices of the High Courts to review the position of old criminal and some old civil cases as well pending in the High Courts and consider the need of recommending appointment of some *ad-hoc* Judges for clearing of the pendency of such cases.

Disposal of rape cases

3085. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are actively considering to issue necessary instrucions to the courts in the country to take a quick decision about rape cases as the one such case at Alwar (Rajasthan) was finalized only in 9 (nine) working days;

(b) if so, whether Union Government are considering to amend the law in this regard and if so, when; and

(c) how far such immediate decision shall avoid the rape cases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Instructions to any court in the country on the manner how and the time in which to dispose cases before it can only be issued by the Superior Courts, namely the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

In so far as expeditious disposal of rape cases are concerned, the relevant recommendation of the Law Commission made in its 172nd Report on Review of Rape Laws has been taken up by Government for taking a final view. It is expected that expeditious disposal of cases related to the offence of rape shall act as an effective deterrent.

Amendments in Hindu Marriage Act

†3086. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of amendments made till date in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has given some suggestions for making amendments in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955;and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.